

Everyone Welcomed. Everyone Included. Everyone Belongs.



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Reviewed and Adopted by Governors:	Autumn Term 2025
Date of Next Review:	Autumn Term 2027
Responsible Officer:	Headteacher

St. Mark's C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Vision

Everyone Welcomed. Everyone Included. Everyone Belongs.

"But I came to give life - life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

At St Mark's CE Primary School, we strive to bring all together as one loving family. Through strong relationships, we offer a sense of belonging by nurturing all to flourish as unique and responsible children of God.

Introduction

Collective Worship at St. Mark's Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998. The staff and governors of St. Mark's C of E Primary School see the main purpose of the school is that of providing a high standard of education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, ensuring that this provision is made available to all of its pupils. It is an important aim of the school to nurture a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best in order to fulfil their individual potential; recognition of effort, attitude and commitment being as worthy of merit as high levels of achievement.

Aims

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus allowing those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate
- To explore and share the belief of others
- To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.
- To allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- To allow children to consider 'big questions' about existence; enabling pupils to become comfortable with reflection, and silences, drawing on all the senses as they develop a sense of awe and wonder about the universe.
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the questions these raise in their lives and the lives of others.
- To enable pupils to make use of silence as a time for reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.
- To be inclusive and accessible by ensuring all are included and have a voice.
- To be invitational by offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- To be inspiring by having an impact on the whole community and motivating them to action.

Definition

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers. Collective worship at St. Mark's C of E Primary School takes place daily. Styles may vary from day to day though it is intended that the various forms will together promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils. The daily act of collective worship will be "wholly of a broadly Christian character," Whilst acknowledging the desirability

to show respect and regard for other religions, as an Anglican foundation, collective worship at St. Mark's C of E Primary School has a Christian orientation.

Expectations of pupils:

During Collective Worship pupils will be given opportunities for:

- individual response and reflection
- listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others;
- introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs;
- sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness,
- togetherness and challenge;
- silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and, if appropriate, prayer;
- celebration of the shared values in the school community

Anglican Tradition

As a Church of England Primary School we include the following Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year -Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying traditional prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and simple responses
- Singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, colours of the church year
- The use of readings, poetry, prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g. The Lord is here / His Spirit is with us, Peace be with you/ and also with you, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen

Organisation

In accordance with both our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements, Collective Worship is organised in St. Mark's C of E Primary School at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised and lead by staff, our clergy and involves the pupils whenever appropriate.

Timetable

Monday	Key Stage Worship led by a range of teaching staff and on occasions by local clergy KS2 (AM Hall) KS1 & EYFS (PM Hall)
Tuesday	In class Worship & Reflection time
Wednesday	Celebration Worship KS2 (AM Hall) KS1 & EYFS (PM Hall)
Thursday	Key Stage Worship led by a range of teaching staff and on occasions by local clergy KS2 (AM Hall) KS1 & EYFS (PM Hall)
Friday	Pupil Led (Hall) KS2 (AM Hall) KS1 & EYFS (PM Hall)

Collective Worship begins at 8.50am or 2.50pm every day except Friday. At the time of Worship, a candle will be lit as a clear visual focus for the children to reflect upon. Lunchtime prayers are said in classes before dismissal for lunch. Home time prayers are observed in all classes prior to dismissal at the end of the school day. It is therefore hoped that parents will not exercise the right they have to remove their child from Collective Worship, but we acknowledge the right that they have to remove their child without any explanation. Any child who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff. Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship, as a Controlled School, however it is expected that teachers will take part in worship.

The contribution of Collective Worship to Aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship can contribute to all other areas of the curriculum, enriching class work, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging of further study.

Assessment and Review/Evaluation

The acts of worship will be evaluated by the head teacher, collective worship leader, governors, staff and children on a regular basis. Worship will be monitored to ensure that:

- Agreed and planned content is being covered
- A variety of approaches and methodology are used
- High standards and quality are maintained
- Collective Worship has been led by a variety of leaders
- Evaluation of parent and pupils reactions

Members of the LAB can regularly attend weekly Celebration Worship and contribute towards evaluation. Pupils are audited to ascertain their views on the worship provided in school. They are given chance to feedback and their thoughts and ideas are adopted where possible.

Special Occasions

Harvest Festival

- Whole School along with parents/families
- Date decided by the Head Teacher and Vicar
- Held in school or at Holy Trinity with St. Mark.
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Christingle

- Whole School along with parents/families
- Date decided by the Head Teacher and Vicar
- Held in school or at Holy Trinity with St. Mark.
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Whole School Nativity

- Year groups along with parents/families
- Held in school with parents/families
- Takes place on mornings or afternoons in the final two weeks of Autumn term

Easter Service

- Whole School along with parents/families
- Takes place in the final week of term
- Held in school or at Holy Trinity with St. Mark.
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Leavers

- Year 6 organised by Class teacher

End of year Celebration Worship

- Year groups along with parents/families
- Held in school with parents/families
- Takes place on mornings or afternoons in the final week of Summer term

Invitations to attend Worship

- Parents, friends and governors are invited to the Harvest, Christingle and Easter Services
- Parents are invited to the Christmas performances
- Year 6 Parents are invited to the Leavers Service in school at the end of the Summer Term
- Parents may be invited to other workshops when required